

# GROUP READING GUIDE

## QUESTIONS *for* DISCUSSION



### I Have Seen Him in the Watchfires

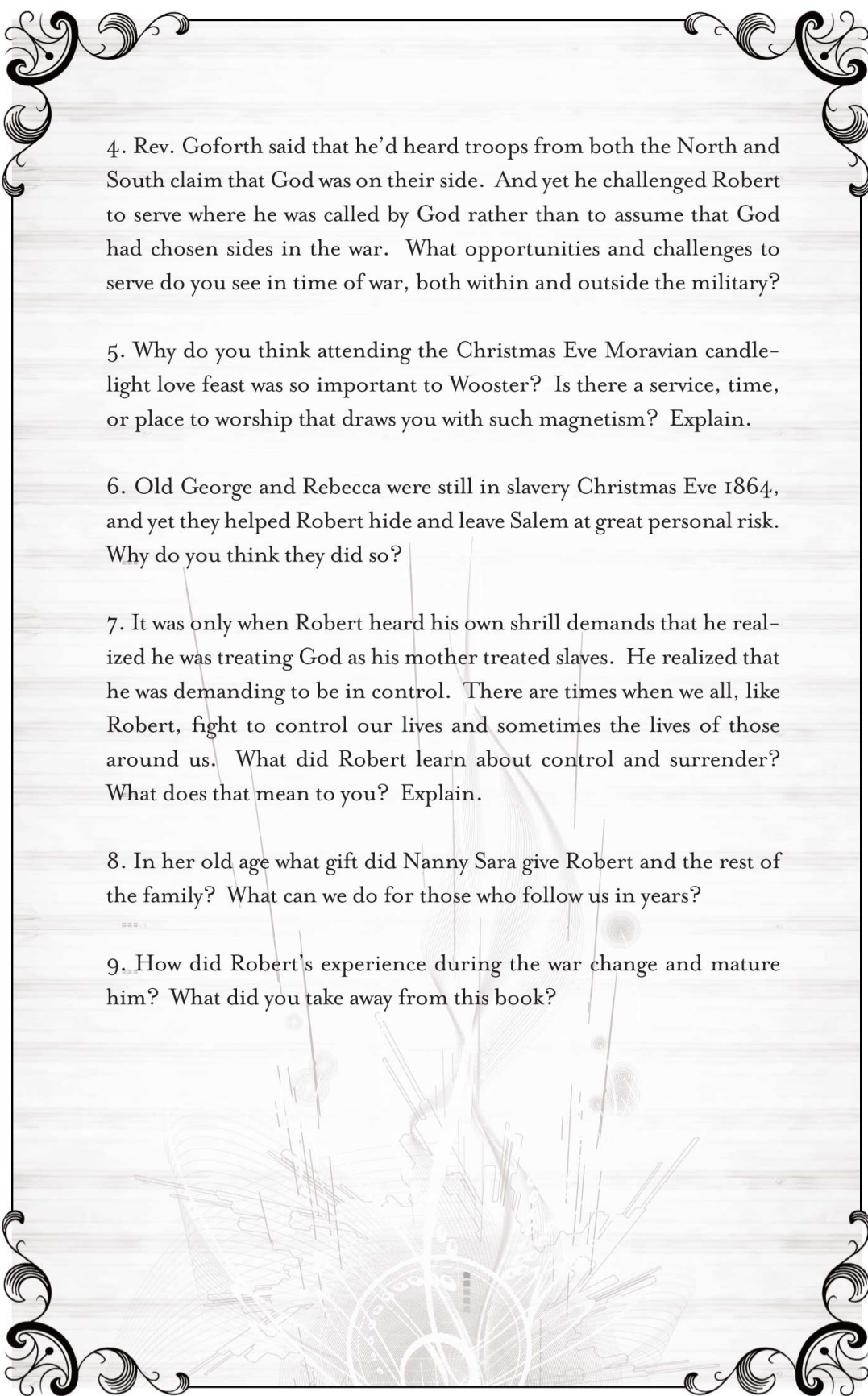
by Cathy Gohlke



1. Robert said, "I knew that reading it [the Bible] was a path to life, and that you never reach a thing without setting your feet straight and walking toward it." Do you agree or disagree? Why? Can you give examples from your own life?

2. Why do you think Mr. Heath, anxious as he was to see the end of slavery, sent food, blankets, clothing and spirits to a Confederate prisoner (whom he had never met), and who had fought to preserve slavery and secede from the Union? Are there people you feel called to help whose actions or beliefs similarly oppose yours? Help in what way?

3. Chap. Goforth and Katie Frances had both been active in Underground Railroad activities before the war and therefore must have hoped for an end to slavery. Why do you think Katie Frances chose to nurse in a Confederate field hospital rather than in a Union hospital? Why did Rev. Goforth choose to minister to the men of the Confederacy? What do you think of their choices and what would you have done?



4. Rev. Goforth said that he'd heard troops from both the North and South claim that God was on their side. And yet he challenged Robert to serve where he was called by God rather than to assume that God had chosen sides in the war. What opportunities and challenges to serve do you see in time of war, both within and outside the military?

5. Why do you think attending the Christmas Eve Moravian candle-light love feast was so important to Wooster? Is there a service, time, or place to worship that draws you with such magnetism? Explain.

6. Old George and Rebecca were still in slavery Christmas Eve 1864, and yet they helped Robert hide and leave Salem at great personal risk. Why do you think they did so?

7. It was only when Robert heard his own shrill demands that he realized he was treating God as his mother treated slaves. He realized that he was demanding to be in control. There are times when we all, like Robert, fight to control our lives and sometimes the lives of those around us. What did Robert learn about control and surrender? What does that mean to you? Explain.

8. In her old age what gift did Nanny Sara give Robert and the rest of the family? What can we do for those who follow us in years?

9. How did Robert's experience during the war change and mature him? What did you take away from this book?